

IN the Year 1682 an Act passed entitled "An Act explaining an Act concerning Port Duties, and Masters of Ships," which after reciting the original Act of 1661, exactly according to the above Copy, "enacts, That no Vessel, or Vessels, whatsoever, properly belonging to this Province, coming in, and Trading within this Province, shall pay, or be charged with any Port Duties, or Anchorage, whatsoever, other than Five Shillings for Clearing, and Five Shillings for Entering, at the respective Entries and Clearing of each respective Vessel belonging to this Province."

IN August Session 1681, when the explanatory Act, just cited, was under Consideration, the Lower House, in a Message, proposed "that Provision might be made, to encourage Ship-Building within the Province, to exempt all Vessels belonging to the Province from the Payment of Port Duties."

IN the Year 1688, the Lower House, having under their Consideration a Letter from the Lords of the Privy Council requiring an Act to be made to prevent the Exportation of Bulk Tobacco, reported their Opinion, "that the Prohibition would prove prejudicial to the Crown, with respect to the Customs, because the Tobacco fit for Bulk, and unfit for Cask, would be left behind in the Country. 2dly, That it would be prejudicial to Lord Baltimore, because the Prohibition would occasion a far less Quantity to be exported, and therefore his Lordship's Revenue in the Imposition of the Tonnage would be lessened."

IN the Year 1692, when the Attempt was made, upon the Revolution of Government here, to deprive Lord Baltimore of the Tonnage by an Act entitled "An Act for the Fourteen Pence Tonnage," the Original Act of 1661 "for Port Duties, and Masters of Ships," was recited.

IN what Right Lord Baltimore is entitled to the Tonnage, is in the next Place to be considered.

HE claims it as his Noble Ancestors did, and has always received it in the same Manner they did, as a Part of his Estate; and, whether this Claim is just, or he ought not rather to be considered as a *Trustee* accountable to the Public for his Application of this Revenue, has been a Question.

By the original Act of 1661 the Tonnage is given to the Lord Proprietary, and his Heirs, generally, and absolutely.

IN the Year 1646, an indefinite or perpetual Act, under the Title of "An Act for Customs," had passed for the "Support of the Lord Proprietary, and towards defraying the Expence that had been incurred in consequence of some Disturbances in the Province." By this Act of 1646 a Custom of Ten Shillings Sterling per Hogshead on all exported Tobacco, and also a Duty on Wines and Hot Waters were imposed, and made payable to the Lord Proprietary; but this Burden on all Tobacco being too great, his Lordship, on the Representation of the Assembly, was induced to agree to a Suspension of it by a temporary Act in the Year 1648, which granted to his Lordship "for the Term of Seven Years Ten Shillings Sterling, or the Value thereof, on every Hogshead of Tobacco, or Quantity thereof, exported in any Dutch Vessels, not bound to any of his Majesty's Ports. One Moiety of which Custom to be applied to the Satisfaction of the Arrears and Claims, touching the late Recovery, and Defence of the Province."

AT the Time this Act passed, the Statutes of England not hindering Foreigners from Trading to the Plantations, the Trade of the Dutch with this Province, for Tobacco, was very considerable.

AFTER the Act of 1648 had expired, and the Restrictions on the Trade of Foreigners with the English Plantations took Place, there was no Room for the Revival of that Act; and the Act of 1646 "for Customs" was in full Force by the Removal of the Suspension agreed upon, during the Continuance of the Act of 1648.

WHEN Lord Baltimore was restored to the Government, which had been seized by Cromwell's Commissioners in the Year 1654, and administered by them till the Year 1658, and the Peace of the Province, which had been extremely disturbed by the Intrigues and Treachery of Governor Fendall, was settled, his Lordship instructed his Governor, Philip Calvert, Esq; who succeeded Fendall, to agree with the Assembly for some Provision for his Lordship, and the Support of Government, in Lieu of the Ten Shillings Sterling per Hogshead on all exported Tobacco granted by the Act of 1646 "for Customs."

THIS Overture, which gave the Assembly a Prospect of the Country's being relieved from a Tax that laid too heavy a Pressure on the People, was received with suitable Acknowledgments; and, in consequence of it, the Provision his Lordship required for himself was made by the Act giving the Tonnage, or Port Duties, and that which he required for the Support of Government